

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Jack R. Smith, and I am an Amateur Radio Operator. I first became interested in Amateur Radio as an indirect consequence of being in the military. During my many deployments to remote parts of the world, I have come to rely on this form of communication to keep in touch with my loved ones, as have many members of our armed forces. Also, these experiences caused me to become an active volunteer with the American Red Cross and the National Weather Service SkyWarn program, providing early warning prior to potential disasters, and essential communications in the aftermath of many them. Amateur Radio has time and again proven its value at times when all other communications have failed, or sometimes never was available. Even the Department of Defense and all the services within recognize in their regulations and directives that it is a valuable resource that must be protected.

The current move to allow the Broadband Over Power Lines (BPL) to exceed the current limits on interference potential to licensed services will severely hamper the abilities of licensed operators to provide these valuable emergency services. While I agree that bringing broadband to all of the citizens of the nation is a laudable goal, this should be done in such a way as not compromise any of the licensed services, whether they be amateur, government or commercial. The present FCC Part 15 limits for this technology already can result in substantial interference potential to amateur frequencies.

BPL systems that radiate on wide swaths of spectrum and that occupy entire neighborhoods have greater interference potential than localized systems, such as switching power supplies or electric motors. This would effectively render many licensed services completely useless, and would effectively eliminate from our defensive arsenal a very important tool used time and again to save lives. There simply must be more research done in order to provide BPL without causing harmful interference.

Please hold true to the stated goals of the FCC to protect existing licensed services from harmful interference. There is more at stake than providing less expensive broadband service.

Sincerely,

Jack R. Smith